

**EMBASSY OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF BULGARIA**

**186-188 QUEEN'S GATE
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Mr. Salem Azzam,
Secretary General,
Islamic Council,
16 Grosvenor Crescent,
London SW1 7EP.

9 June 1989

Dear Sir,

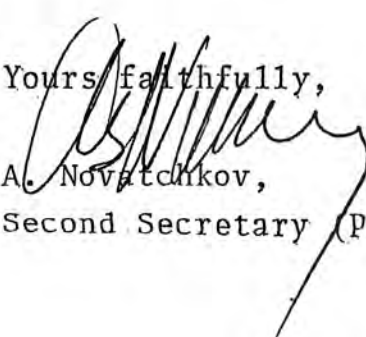
My Ambassador asked me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 7th June and to reply to your inquiry.

I understand that you are concerned about the Bulgarian Muslims. The wrong interpretation of the problem, if any, on your behalf, I assume is caused by the insufficient information you probably have on the matter. I am glad to enclose herewith some additional information.

Please allow me to point out that it is not correct to mix the national and the religious affiliations. There are many Muslims all over the world, who by all means are not to be considered as Turks.

If you have any further requests, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,


A. Novatchkov,
Second Secretary (Press)

Encl.:

7 June, 1989.

H.E. Mr. Dimitar Zhulev,
Ambassador
Embassy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria,
186-188 Queen's Gate
London SW7 5HL.

Excellency,

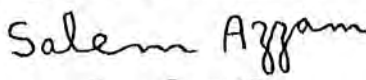
The continuing violation of human rights of the Tartar and Turkish ethnic minorities by the Bulgarian regime obliges me once again to express our grave concern about the situation. Reports by a number of independent sources confirm that despite international protests and appeals, the situation has become worse instead of getting better. According to these reports, the Muslim peoples belonging to the Turkish and Tartar ethnic minorities continue to be brutalized with increasing ferocity for wanting to retain their Islamic names, culture and faith. The reports even allege that the authorities have gone so far as to kill people who oppose the so-called Bulgarianisation policy of the regime, including a number of Muslim academics of the Sofia University.

Allow me Your Excellency to point out that what has been happening in Bulgaria for a number of years not only violates the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Helsinki Final Act but also the norms of humanity and tolerance.

I, therefore, once again request you to convey our grave concern and anxiety to your government.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Salem Azzam

Secretary General